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Friday, March 6, 1953

The announcement came through this morning that Stalin died last night. The [redacted] reaction in some parts of Europe had been during his illness that there would be a War for the succession, and that the North Atlantic Treaty military effort could be relaxed while the Russians fought each other. This would really be a dangerous assumption.

Bert Jolis came to see me this morning and afterwards Paul Porter. I then had a talk with Frank Giles and Mr. MacDonald of the London Times about the EDC. This afternoon I saw J. Kingsbury Smith and discussed the same subject with him.

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